

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

MAR 08 2007

IN THE CLAIMS

1-59. (CANCELLED)

60. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An automatic card shuffler comprising:

- a housing mounted into a gaming table surface such that a card receiver for accepting a group of cards to be shuffled is recessed beneath the top surface of the gaming table;

- the card receiver for accepting a group of cards to be shuffled;

- a randomizing system for randomizing the order of an initial set of playing cards;

- a collection surface for receiving randomized cards;

- an elevator for raising the collection surface to an elevation proximate the gaming table surface; and

- a microprocessor for controlling the operation of the card shuffler.

61. (ORIGINAL) The automatic card shuffler of claim 60, and further comprising a movable cover that is closed at least part of the time over at least one of the card receiver and collection surface.

62. (ORIGINAL) An automatic card shuffler, comprising:

- a housing;

- a card receiver for receiving a group of cards to be shuffled;

- a card randomizing area, the area including a gripping support mechanism for suspending at least one card within the card randomizing area; and

- a mechanism for automatically adjusting the gripping support mechanism during operation to suspend cards of varying dimensions.

63. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 62, wherein the gripping support mechanism comprises a pair of spaced apart gripping pads that move towards the edges of a stack of cards.

64. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 62 further comprising a sensor for sensing the presence of a substack of suspended cards.

65. (ORIGINAL) An automatic card shuffler, comprising:
- a card randomization mechanism;
 - a processor for determining operational functions of the card randomization mechanism and issuing commands;
 - at least one encoder for verifying operational functions of the card randomization mechanism, wherein
 - the processor verifies that cards have been randomized by comparing commands to encoder information to verify the operation of the card randomization mechanism.
66. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 65, wherein the card shuffler is mounted into a gaming table and the card randomization mechanism is concealed from a player's view during randomization.
67. (ORIGINAL) An automatic card shuffler, comprising:
- a microprocessor;
 - a card randomization mechanism; and
 - a remote controller for controlling the card randomization mechanism by means of a user-manipulated remote control device.
68. (ORIGINAL) The device of claim 67 wherein the remote controller is selected from the group consisting of an infra-red (I.R.) controller and a foot pedal.
69. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 67 wherein the remote controller comprises an infra-red controller.
70. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 61 further wherein the randomizing system further comprises
- a card randomizing area, the card randomizing area including:

- i) a gripping support mechanism for suspending at least one card within the card randomizing area; and
- ii) a mechanism for automatically adjusting the gripping support mechanism during operation to suspend cards of varying dimensions.

71. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 70, wherein the gripping support mechanism comprises a pair of spaced apart gripping pads that move towards the edges of a stack of cards.

72. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 70 further comprising a sensor for sensing the presence of a substack of suspended cards.

73. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 60 wherein there is a remote controller for controlling the card randomization system by means of a user-manipulated remote control device.

74. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 73 wherein the remote controller is selected from the group consisting of an infra-red (I.R.) controller and a foot pedal.

75. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The device of claim 73 wherein the remote controller comprises an infra-red controller.

SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

Claims 60-69 have been subjected to a restriction requirement among four groups of claims as follows:

GROUP I: Claims 60-61;
GROUP II: Claims 62-64;
GROUP III: Claims 65-66: and
GROUP IV: Claims 67-69